

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 00198 100943Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-01 NSC-05 SS-15 /035 W
-----104370 100948Z /10

O R 100916Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2613

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USIAC

EO 11652N/A

TAGS:

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE IN WARSAW

REF: A. POWELL/BRADSHAW TELCON JANUARY 9, B. WARSAW 0048,
C. WARSAW 0065, D. WARSAW 0197

1. AS NOTED IN WIRE-SERVICES REPORTING FROM WARSAW, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE WHITE HOUSE TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESIDENT'S DECEMBER 30 PRESS CONFERENCE IN WARSAW AND THE VERSION PRINTED IN POLAND AND BROADCAST BY POLISH TELEVISION AND RADIO. SOME OF THE DISCREPANCIES WERE DELIBERATE DISTORTIONS FOR POLITICAL REASONS (SEE REF D). OTHERS WERE DUE TO INACCURATE TRANSLATIONS BY THE PERSONS SERVING AS SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETERS. THE TRANSCRIPT ISSUED BY THE WHITE HOUSE FROM WARSAW ACCURATELY RECORDED WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID AND WHAT HE HEARD; IT WAS FAULTY IN THAT TRANSLATIONS OF SOME OF THE QUESTIONS FROM POLISH JOURNALISTS INTO ENGLISH WERE IMPRECISE OR INCOMPLETE.

2. THE ONLY SERIOUS INTERPRETING ERROR OF THIS TYPE WE HAVE DISCOVERED IS AS FOLLOWS. THE POLISH BAPTIST JOURNALIST, BEFORE ASKING HIS QUESTION, SAID "WE, THE
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POLISH BAPTISTS, LIVE IN AN ULTRA-CATHOLIC COUNTRY AND ON OCCASION WE ARE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BY, PERHAPS, A PART OF THE CHURCH HIERARCHY AND SOME BELIEVERS OF THAT CHURCH." THE U.S. TRANSCRIPT SAYS ONLY "WE THE POLISH BAPTISTS LIVE IN AN EXTRA-CAHTOLIC COUNTRY AND ON OCCASIONS WE ARE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST."

3. THE ONLY WAY TO IDENTIFY ALL SUCH TRANSLATING
DISCREPANCIES WOULD BE TO TRANSLATE THE TEXT OF VOA'S
LIVE POLISH-LANGUAGE BROADCAST OF THE CONFERENCE.
BRADSHAW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978WARSAW00198
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780014-0489
Format: TEL
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780178/aaaacoie.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fb99eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 WARSAW 48, 78 WARSAW 65, 78 WARSAW 197
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3796769
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE IN WARSAW
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, US, PL, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fb99eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014